



**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Tsuyoshi KANEKO

Group Art Unit: 2883

Application No.: 10/814,136

Examiner: T. RUDE

Filed: April 1, 2004

Docket No.: 119105

For: CONNECTION STRUCTURE BETWEEN OPTICAL FIBERS AND CONNECTION  
METHOD FOR COUPLING THE SAME

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT  
AND  
RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the January 11, 2006 Restriction Requirement, Applicant provisionally elects Group II (claims 1-18), with traverse. In reply to the January 11, 2006 Election of Species Requirement, Applicant provisionally elects Species A (Figure 1), with traverse. At least claims 1-3, 7-13, 17 and 18 read on the elected species.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims and all species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one group of claims or species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims and species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or

distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement and the Election of Species Requirement.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: February 7, 2006

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